



Absentee Ballots Never Received

LAC At Center Of Controversy Over Missing Absentee Ballots, Would-Be Voters Speak Out

By **KATY BURNELL**
Assistant News Editor

A number of UMW students who requested absentee ballots through the student government's Legislative Action Committee are complaining that their applications weren't properly processed and they never received their ballots.

Senior Mary Haggerty is one of those

students, and said she had to drive home to Richmond on election day as a result.

"I drove for about two hours and only spent about three minutes voting," Haggerty said. "I applied for an absentee ballot so that I wouldn't have to drive home on a Tuesday and miss class. It angers me to know that this happened to multiple people, and especially in such a close election."

Legislative Action Committee chair Sara Byrd acknowledged that her office has received

complaints, but said that some of the problems with absentee ballot requests were the fault of the students who submitted them. In 30 cases, Byrd said, students turned in incomplete or inaccurate applications, which meant she and other LAC workers had to track down applicants and information before they could mail off the forms to election offices across the country.

Byrd said that as far as she knows, however, all of the students who filled out applications for absentee ballots should have received their ballots because she mailed out every application herself. Byrd could not explain why some students never received their ballots.

"There was no error on the part of LAC or the

SGA," Byrd said.

Young Democrats president Elz England, who helped 40 students apply for absentee ballots during the YD's ballot barbecue said that she has not received any complaints to date. England checked over every application she received before mailing them out, and said that the LAC should do the same.

"I think the problem with LAC is that they don't tell you or show you what to fill out," England said. "I checked them over to make sure people filled out everything. Plus, it's a long application, so before people filled them out for us we had already highlighted the sections they

► See **BALLOTS**, page 2

BOV Calls For Dorm Upgrades

By **ZACH BOWMAN**
Entertainment Editor

The University of Mary Washington's Board of Visitors recently approved \$500,000 for emergency dorm improvements including new room furnishings such as desks, chairs and mattresses.

The appropriation came on the heels of a tour University President William Frawley and the board took of Russell Hall. The money is being pulled from a \$5 million auxiliary reserve fund which is paid for by excess student fees and meal plan fees. According to Rick Hurley, vice president for administration and finance, the fund is in place for exactly this sort of use. The auxiliary reserve is set aside specifically for repair and replacement of university facilities due to the fact that the state of Virginia does not provide funds for dining or residence halls.

Director of Residence Life and Housing Christine Porter, the person in charge of allocating the annual residence hall funds, said the yearly allotment for dorm repair is being used to upgrade current community living spaces. Her goal is to move away from the "this end up" furniture, the crate like pieces found in most dorms currently, and move more towards furnishings for a space students actually want to spend time in.

"If you go into the Jefferson lobby, it's just a bare space," Porter said. "We want to move more towards what Virginia Hall's parlor is now, a fully upholstered room."

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Mr. Westmoreland, junior Adam Holofcener, demonstrates his musical talent. Holofcener was just one of many contestants to compete in UMW's annual Mr. UMW Pageant Wednesday night.

Merna On Probation

By **ERICA JACKSON**
News Editor

Last March University of Mary Washington student Tessa Merna was arrested in connection with the theft of her then-roommate's iPod and two gift cards. After accepting a plea bargain, the student leader continues to maintain a high profile at UMW, attending classes and holding positions in various campus organizations.

According to court records from the April 11 preliminary hearing, Merna, now a senior, was initially charged with grand larceny and credit card theft, both felonies. Both charges were reduced to petty larceny, a misdemeanor, after Merna accepted the plea bargain. In exchange for the reduced charges, Merna was required to perform 300 hours of community service, as well as serve one-year probation.



Merna

The final disposition will take place April 3, 2007 after which time the charges will be cleared from Merna's record, provided that she abide by her sanctions.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Travis Bird would not comment directly on the case, but recognized the importance of Merna's compliance with her sanctions.

"Basically she doesn't want to come back on our radar again, because if she does it won't go well for her," Bird said.

According to Bird, Merna's former roommate Holly Harrell had a say in Merna's sanctions.

"The victim was involved in the process and

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For Thanksgiving, A Few Remain In Town

By **STACY HORNE**
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving dinner conversation for most college students will probably include the question, "would you like some more turkey and stuffing?" But some international students may be more likely to hear, "would you like fries with that order?"

Thanksgiving is the first time after the start of school that many students are able to head home and see all of their family and friends in one visit. But many international students don't have that luxury, and will remain on campus for the break.

The administration expects that there will be about 20 students on campus over the holiday. Besides the international students, the number will include American students who live too far away to go home. Some students will also be returning early because they have to work in the Fredericksburg area on Friday.

Because the dining hall is closed, students remaining on campus will have to make other plans for Thanksgiving dinner.

Yoshi Tong, a senior Business major, lives in Hong Kong and can't go home to see her family for the short holiday. The airfare is almost \$1400 and the time limitation doesn't make a visit feasible.

"The plane ride is long, probably about 19 or 20 hours," Tong said. She will go home only once during the year.

There are approximately 30 students at Mary Washington who live overseas and are unable to go home this Thanksgiving, according to Chris Musick, director of international academic services. In the past Musick has taken some of the students to his home, but will not be available to do so this year.

The international students are in the U.S. on student visas, and most don't have a place in the

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Campus Welcomes Skateboarders Back

By **BRITTANY DEVRIES**
Staff Writer

The signs are gone, and the boards are back. Legally. Most University of Mary Washington skateboarders and long boarders had never really stopped riding down campus since former UMW President Anderson restricted the use of skateboarding on campus a few years ago, but now there is no fear. Paired with his prior concern for the damage that skateboard tricking can cause damage to school property, an accident he witnessed involving a board on campus motivated Anderson enough to enforce the restriction of boards on campus grounds.

Since the policy went into effect, Bernard Chirico, vice president of student affairs and dean of students, noticed that students were not using their boards to do tricks.

"From that point on, I noticed that all the students were doing was going to class," Chirico said. "They were using [them] for transportation.

It was kind of cool."

Many students, including sophomore Sean Duffy, have expressed their disapproval of the former "no skateboard" rule.

"Skateboarding is no more a safety concern than riding a bike," Duffy said. "They shouldn't be allowed to be tricking out, but most students are not vandalizing. They use boards to get around campus."

Todd Curran, a UMW admissions counselor and 2006 alumnus brought the issue to Student Senate during his sophomore year.

"It was passed through Senate, but Anderson vetoed it," Curran said. Again trying to repeal the policy, Curran spoke at a Senate meeting last semester. Student Senate passed the motion with a near entire majority. Anderson vetoed the repeal for a second time.

Andrew Fitzgerald, Student Senate President, SGA Vice President, explained past objections to allowing skateboard use on school grounds.

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5 Day Forecast



TODAY
Thunderstorms

High: 68
Low: 47



FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 59
Low: 37



SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 57
Low: 35



SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 56
Low: 36



MONDAY
Partly Cloudy

High: 53
Low: 37

Verbatim ...

"I honestly thought I might get a glow stick in the eye. That was little too involved for me."

—Laura Dowell, page 7

News Shorts

WORLD

Mexico City: A 7-year-old boy has appealed to the Mexican Congress to keep his mother from being deported. Saul Arellano is a second-grader who was born in the United States to Elvira Arellano, an illegal immigrant who has recently taken refuge in a Chicago church. He recently traveled to Mexico city to speak before the Chamber of Deputies to plead his mother's case.

—cnm.com

Jerusalem: According to Israeli police, Palestinian rockets fired by militants hit an Israeli town Wednesday morning, killing one woman and wounding a man. Israeli officials condemned the strike, saying that "Israel will take an means necessary in protecting our citizens." This attack follows a series of strikes by the Israelis said to target and suppress rocket launches, including one which hit a Gaza town, killing 18 Palestinians, most of them women and children.

—cnm.com

Islamabad, Pakistan: Pakistan's lower parliament voted Wednesday to place the crime of rape under the penal code, thereby removing it from the Islamic Laws the crime used to be tried under. Those laws, known as the Hudood Ordinances, make a rape victim liable for adultery charges if she cannot produce four male witnesses to the assault. The bill, which is strongly opposed by several Islamic parties, must pass through the upper house of parliament before it becomes law.

—washingtonpost.com

NATION

Honolulu: State officials closed down the island's harbor after an earthquake in Japan changed sea levels in the area. Hawaii was given a Tsunami Warning early in the day, which has since been cancelled, but many Hawaiian cities have reported varying sea level changes.

—cnm.com

Washington, D.C.: At their semi-annual meeting, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the country's bishops voted to support guidelines that fall in line with traditional teachings. These guidelines call for gay and lesbian Catholics to remain celibate and for married Catholics to refrain from using artificial contraception. The initiatives welcome gay people but affirm teachings that "homosexual inclinations" are inherently disordered.

—nytimes.com

WEIRD

Los Angeles: The Marine Corp Reserves' Toys for Tots program has turned down a donation of 4,000 talking Jesus dolls. The vice president of Toys for Tots said it does not know anything about the religious affiliation of the recipients and would not want to accidentally send a doll to a Jewish or Muslim family. The dolls are button activated and recite passages including "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

—AP

Plageville, Wis.: A local man who legally changed his name to Andy Griffith in order to run for sheriff in his small town lost. Griffith, who ran as an independent, said he underestimated the dominance of the two-party system. "People go vote for a Republican or vote for a Democrat, almost like a robot."

—AP

Los Angeles: O.J. Simpson is planning a book and television interview to discuss how, hypothetically, he could have killed his ex-wife and her friend. Simpson was found not guilty in their murders in 1995, a trial whose verdict was watched by half of the United States population. Simpson's publisher considers this "his confession."

—cnm.com

Questions Persist Over Lost Ballots

◀ ABSENTEE, page 1

needed to fill out."

Byrd said that the LAC displayed highlighted applications for student reference. Unlike the Young Democrats the LAC chose not to highlight every application that they provided. The LAC processed over 400 absentee ballot requests for Virginia residents, according to Byrd.

One of these ballots belonged to UMW senior Corey Malmgren, who drove home to Fairfax to vote on Election day. Malmgren filled out her application the week before the election at a stand set up outside of the Eagles Nest. She said she was surprised by the late date, but she decided to apply for a ballot anyway.

"I handed my form to Tessa Merna," Malmgren said. "I was supposed to receive an absentee ballot in the mail. That was my understanding of it, but it never came."

Dean of Student Life Cedric Rucker said that the U.S. Postal Service may be to blame for the missing ballots, but LAC chair Sara Byrd is not.

"You know how it is," he said. "If you put

something in the mailbox it might get there or it might not."

Rucker described Byrd as a dedicated leader, and a serious advocate for voter participation.

"Sara very much believes that everyone should have a chance to make their voice heard," Rucker said.

Byrd said that she has personally received emails from unhappy students. One student, who she declined to identify, accused Byrd of mishandling ballots to influence the election outcome. Byrd shrugged off the insult, saying that she could understand why students were upset.

"They're frustrated. They wanted to be a part of something and they weren't able to be," Byrd said.

Would-be absentee voter Mary Haggerty said that missing the ability to participate in the electoral process is more than just a partisan loss.

"Whether on purpose or not, this situation did interfere with our votes and it did affect the numbers," Haggerty said. "If nothing else voting makes us feel more connected to our government, and makes us feel like we have a say in what happens in our state and country."



Merna Still Leading

◀ MERNA, page 1

agreed to the resolution of the case," Bird said. "We tried to consider the best interest of all parties involved."

Harrell, who is taking the semester off but still in Fredericksburg, was satisfied with the plea bargain.

"I didn't want to screw her life over," Harrell said. "I feel like she messed up with that me, but I'm not the type of person who's very revengeful."

According to Harrell, in an account confirmed by emails to Harrell from Bernard Chirico, vice president of student affairs and recently-appointed supervisor to the Honor Council, Merna also faces honor charges. However, Merna's case has been postponed repeatedly since the charges were filed last spring, and there has still been no resolution in the case.

Both Merna and Chirico refused to discuss the honor charges, or even confirm that there is a case pending against Merna.

"They said it would all be over last semester," said Harrell, who is taking the semester off but still in Fredericksburg. "Then they promised the first two weeks of school. It's bullshit."

According to an article in the March 23 edition of The Bulletin, the incident that led to the criminal charges against Merna began when Harrell found a receipt in Merna's bag that contained numbers that corresponded with the numbers on her missing American Eagle gift card. Gift cards, by law, are classified as credit.

After police questioned Merna, she turned over Harrell's missing iPod and iTunes gift card.

Merna declined to comment on the specific details of the incident.

"It was basically a kind of roommate misunderstanding that's been completely blown out of proportion," she said. "If people want to know about it, they can come ask about it: one-on-one, individually."

Merna, an economics major, continues to be involved in numerous campus organizations. She serves as president of the Apartments Hall Council and the social chair of the Legislative Action Committee. She is also involved in the Student Senate, the Ecology Club, and "a couple of other things, I can't remember them all," Merna said.

At the time of her arrest, Merna was president of the Association of Residence Halls, a junior class officer, a member of the SGA executive cabinet, and an Orientation coordinator. She was not fired from any of her positions after her arrest.

"People seemed to be fully encouraging of my position and relied on their impressions of me... and not on what rumors they had heard about me," she said.

She went on to assert that her legal issues should have no bearing on her involvement in campus organizations.

"This isn't something that happened within a club or organization," Merna said. "This

happened between me and my roommate. I don't think this situation has any bearing on my involvement [in campus activities]. I've been involved since day one of freshman year."

Merna is not the first student leader to have such serious charges brought against her. In 2004, Honor Council officer Christina Wimmel pleaded guilty to petty larceny in connection with the theft of her roommate's credit card.

In 2003 Rebecca Turnbull, the incoming student body president, pleaded guilty to embezzling and petty larceny while she was president of the Association of Residence Halls. At the time of her arrest, Merna was president of that same organization. She continued to serve in that position until the end of her term.

Senior Paul Walsh, president of the Judicial Review Board, was not surprised at Merna's continued involvement in campus activities.

"She loves it here and she likes to be a volunteer, especially in OSACS," said Walsh. "She's

pretty good at planning events."

However, like many members of the campus community, Walsh expressed general confusion regarding the current status of Merna's case.

"I don't even know if a formal charge has been put forward," said Walsh. "I heard the initial rumors, but pretty much all I've heard since then have been just that: rumors. Rumors that the administration swept under the rug."

Lee Cotton, director of the Office of Student Activities and Community Service, has worked with Merna on several occasions.

"She volunteered in this office and I have a tendency not to pry into people's private lives," Cotton said. "I know there are some issues pending, but there hasn't been anything proven at this point in time, so as our legal system allows persons innocent until proven guilty, she's accorded the presumption of innocence and I will treat her accordingly."

Merna admitted that she has had difficulty in dealing with the aftermath of her arrest.

"It's very hard to keep your head up, and try to keep yourself at a classy level and not stoop down to saying things behind people's backs," she said. "I definitely appreciate all the support that I've had because I couldn't have made it through without that."

As far as the future is concerned, Merna plans to graduate in May, get a job for a few years, then go to graduate school. Although she is not yet sure what career she wants to pursue, she hopes that her past will not interfere with any potential jobs.

"I'm not going to let this situation affect me," she said. "If it bothers some other person that's interested in hiring me, that's probably not a person I'd want to work for. I'm currently just trying to move on. It's a situation that happened eight months ago and I'm just trying to finish out my senior year here."

Repairs Planned

◀ DORMS, page 1

Where Frawley envisions mixed spaces inside of dorms with class rooms, faculty spaces, and possibly even Starbucks or something similar, Hurley is quick to point out that the \$500,000 is more of a stop-gap measure.

"After [Frawley] walked around the residence halls, he looked around and said, 'We've got to do something about this,'" Hurley said.

Of the 17 dorms on campus, only five—Alvey, Arrington, Willard, South, and the apartments—are equipped with air conditioning. While this is another one of Frawley's concerns, most students seem to accept it as just another part of life on Mary Washington's campus.

"Not having AC was pretty harsh early on," said freshman Chris Johnson, a Jefferson Hall resident. "Now that it's cooled off it doesn't really matter though."

Even so, the University is in the process of forming a new construction plan including construction of new residence halls and renovation of the existing halls, providing better electrical systems to support the greater number of gadgets students bring with them and up-to-date plumbing systems.

These improvements are part of UMW's master plan for future construction, including a possible new dorm where the outdoor basketball courts are currently, a possible addition between Randolph Hall and Mason Hall and a possible addition behind Jefferson Hall. While all of these are potential locations that will not be realized for some time, the University should cement a plan of action for dorm construction and renovation by mid- to late-fall semester.

The last dormitory to be remodeled was Willard Hall in the late 1970s. While the work done to the hall was fairly significant, it is starting to show age.

"I guess its only saving grace is that it's air conditioned," Hurley said. "I don't know how attractive it is."

While UMW has not necessarily been keeping up with its expanding student body, other schools like Christopher Newport University try to renovate one out of their four senior apartment dorms each year to keep their facilities as new and up to date as possible, according to Josh Hopkins, a staff member of the CNU residence life. All of CNU's dorms are equipped with air conditioning and wireless internet, something that most of Mary Washington's dorms can only boast in their lobbies.

A lack of state of the art facilities isn't the only problem being dealt with in terms of UMW housing. Room enough for all the students willing to live on campus is a major issue, according to both Hurley and Porter. Every fall, the University has more students who want to live on campus than the school can house. A 2001 study showed the University had an immediate need of 350 beds and a long-term need of 350 more. As a result of the study, the University purchased what are now the upperclassmen apartments, thereby satiating the short-term necessity of 350 beds.

"We know that we could build at least that many more beds and could probably fill them without increasing enrollment," Hurley said.

For the time being, however, Hurley thinks the rest of the buildings on campus are holding together fairly well.

"The dorms have a very old, tired feel about them," Hurley said. "We do the best we can to keep the floors shining and the paint on the walls, but beyond that they need to be modernized."

The University has hired a firm to assess every building on campus to determine exactly which ones need the most attention first. According to Director of Facility Services John Wittenmuth, the assessment will cost \$185,595. Based on that information, the school will begin work where it is most needed.

Corrections

In the Oct. 19 issue of The Bulletin, the article "Poole Assumes Role as New BOV Rector" reported that William Poole was appointed by Governor Tim Kaine. In fact Poole was voted by the other members of the Board as the new rector of the BOV after having been re-appointed to the Board this summer by the Governor.

The same article stated that, "The rector, vice rector and the executive committee..." should read: "The rector, vice rector and secretary are nominated and elected by members of the Board of Visitors for two-year terms, and two members of the board who have served for at least one year are also nominated and elected by the board to serve with the rector, vice rector and secretary on the Executive Committee."

The following sentence states that "The University's faculty, the Alumni Association, and community groups also contribute nominations." This does not apply to the nominations for the positions within the board - all of those nominations come from the board members themselves.



Viewpoints

More
Viewpoints
Page 9

Keep 'Em Coming

The *Bullet* has recently received a remarkable amount of letters from students. This is the reason for the existence of the Viewpoints section.

Usually guest columnists tackle tons of contentious issues, only to be met with silence on the part of readers.

Keep writing, and not only when you see something in *The Bulletin* that you feel is particularly vile.

Women's Rights Trampled

This letter was written in response to "South Dakota Speaks On Abortion" (Oct. 19, 2006) and "To Life" (Nov. 9, 2006, *The Bulletin*).

Dear Editor:

If one thing is clear from reading *The Bulletin* lately, it is that women are under attack. Our reproductive rights are being questioned, not only in regard to abortion, but in personal decisions we make to prevent pregnancy.

Over the past several weeks, *The Bulletin* has published two articles favoring the right to life, as well as an ad for feminists for life. One such article appeared in the Oct. 19 edition, and was written in support of a ban of all abortions in South Dakota. The authors assert that scientific research shows that overall abortion hurts women and that a fetus is a separate living entity.

I would never argue that life does not begin at conception; a living cell respires and carries out metabolic functions just as we and all other animals and plants do, down to minute bacteria and phytoplankton. The claims of this research are suspect right away, however, as soon as one sees that the Web site address begins with "voteyesforlife." There is a clear agenda here, one that helps skew and misrepresent scientific data to promote a cause.

Abortion is an intensely personal and political issue and for every Web site listing scientific data against abortion, there is another one using data to support it. In my experience, it is very difficult to find a bias-free information source on abortion from any side of the issue. Even with scientific references listed, these biases make it impossible to openly trust any claims made about abortion. If anything causes women who have had abortions emotional pain, it is the pro-life movement who taunts them and makes painful and unwarranted accusations.

If you have never experienced an accidental pregnancy, do not be so quick to judge. I know there are more pro-choice feminists on this campus. Do not allow the school paper to focus on one side of this issue. Speak up and be heard!

The Bulletin has also given a good deal of attention to anti-birth control flyers that were posted around campus. Many people expressed opposition to the ideas of this group and we are correct to be suspicious. Project Plus claims that birth control allows men to use women and

Climate Change Threatens Earth

By LAUREN BIRNEY
Guest Columnist

If there's one thing Mary Washington Ecology Club members learned from the Youth Energy Summit a couple of weekends ago, it's this: climate change is real. The evidence is all around us and is at this point no longer worth debating about.

As determined by James Hansen, one of the top scientific authorities on global warming, we have about ten years left in which to change the path we're on; ten years before the consequences of careless resource consumption become irreversible.

With such a seemingly insurmountable task ahead, it would be easy to give up and fall into the pits of despair. However, as seen from the turnout at the Youth Energy Summit in Williamsburg, there are still those holding out for a bright (and clean) future.

One hundred and eighty students from across the mid-Atlantic region convened at the William & Mary campus for the largest known climate conference ever put on by a state.

The weekend was filled with educational experiences, skills workshops, amazing speakers and even a little partying. Far from lamenting the possibilities of global catastrophe, these students (including ten members of Mary Washington Ecology Club) came from far and wide to learn about the ways in which they can make a proactive difference on campus and in their communities.

Hilary Lufkin, president of the Ecology Club, was instrumental in helping to organize the conference. The idea was born during a conference call in July with other students concerned about renewable energy use. "At that time it seemed like a dream, but after a few more phone calls and umpteen emails, the agenda was complete and food was purchased, workshop leaders were confirmed and the participant list soared above 200," Lufkin said.

The weekend conference started off Friday evening with a viewing of Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth." Saturday was a day of informative lectures, group discussions, skills workshops and great keynote speakers including Mike Tidwell of Chesapeake Climate

Action Network and Reverend Yearwood, the mastermind behind P. Diddy's "Vote or Die" campaign. Sunday included "break-out" sessions with the separate school groups to brainstorm ideas to take back to campus as well as some more workshops on subjects ranging from mountaintop removal to corporate and political campaigns.

All the while, the student attendees were well-fed, gorging themselves on meals from local Williamsburg area vendors (some even taking the care to minimize their waste by using Tupperware instead of paper plates and cups).

Though there was a great deal of fun to be had, the enormity of the task of combating global warming was never far from anyone's mind.

As put by Reverend Yearwood, we are facing an unprecedented challenge with global warming—never before has a widespread movement been needed with such urgency and with such dire consequences at stake, nor has such a threat been posed against everyone in the world.

The Reverend tried to keep things light-hearted with an impromptu dance party before and after his presentation, but his message was unmistakably clear; all one needs is to look at the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina to see that what we're up against, requires immediate attention.

Without action, we can expect to see tragedies such as this occur again and again in the future. No one will be exempt from the consequences of global climate change.

The gloom and doom of it all hasn't managed to dampen the spirits of the Mary Washington Ecology Club members, however. From the weekend conference, the students have returned with plans to totally revamp the campus' energy policy, and hopes of making a proposal to the administration to reduce UMW's carbon emissions to zero within the next few years. There are already colleges across the country that have achieved this goal, including New York University and American

University.

In accordance with this plan, the Ecology Club is seeking to improve the energy efficiency of campus by asking that eco-friendly building standards are met by all buildings on school grounds and hopefully plans for a new gymnasium and dorm building will be altered to include energy saving features like light sensors to automatically turn off lights once everyone has left a room, heat retaining windows and even solar panels.

Already all the buildings on campus are equipped with carbon fluorescent light bulbs and water-saving toilets.

Other ideas include a new bike sharing program to allow all UMW students the opportunity to lend or rent bikes for faster transportation across campus or across town. A week of festivities is also planned for the end of January to get students involved and encourage participation from all over the political and social spectrum of campus.

A major theme recognized by the Youth Energy Summit attendees was the general stereotype of the environmental issue as a strictly "hippie" or "liberal" issue. "We need to make this a non-partisan issue," an Ecology Club member concluded.

It is true, too often the subject is characterized as leftist propaganda, and Mary Washington students are eager to alter that perception here on campus. The club plans to appeal to members of various political groups on campus, ranging from the Campus Greens to the Young Democrats to the College Republicans.

If you're interested in what you can do to help the environment and promote clean energy use on campus, be sure to keep an eye out for Ecology Club meetings on campus. The winds of change are blowing at the University of Mary Washington; winds that will maybe one day power a giant turbine to keep clean energy flowing in the years to come.

Lauren Birney is a freshman.



Courtesy readingonline.org

ignore the natural consequences of sex. They did not mention that one of these consequences, pregnancy, rests ultimately on the female. In my eyes, this makes birth control a sexual equalizer for women.

Perhaps this information would have been useful forty years ago when pills had much higher dosages of hormones, but today they are safer and prescribed for a variety of reasons not involving contraception. The hormones in birth control have been beneficial for many women in regulating menstruation and irradiating abnormally painful cramps. Hormonal contraceptives are not for everyone, but what interests me is the proposed "solution" to contraception involving naturally produced mucus cycles. There is much more to

contraception than "getting what we want, when we want it." The more difficult it is to follow the contraception plan, the easier it is to accidentally become pregnant.

Even taking a pill at the same time every day can be a challenge to us non-perfect humans. If it was merely hormones this group was attacking, they would recommend a more reliable but non-hormonal barrier, such as condoms or an interuterine device.

The very old-fashioned advice given by this group makes me suspicious of their intentions. It's great that some people are able to function in society without prescribed hormones, antidepressants, cholesterol-lowering medication, etc., but not all of us have this luxury. Besides, birth control is only one of many items taken in

consumption that contains hormones. Supporters should probably think twice before they consume their next growth hormone-packed Thanksgiving turkeys.

To top off everything, your sex columnist Daniel Coo did not have a negative word to say about female objectification and dismissed male dominance as a reflection of our culture. What is that supposed to mean? Also, using Cosmopolitan to show that women like to be dominated is just insulting.

Ordinarily I would have read this column in a more forgiving way, dismissing it as (hopefully) a joke, but with the other articles I have read lately, I viewed it as another attack on women.

Hana Lipowicz is a senior.

Oh Man Scrubs is Awesome

By Will Brewster and Austin Cobb



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The *Bullet* is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of The *Bullet* adviser.

Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to The *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail address at bullet@umw.edu.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact The *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

Features

UMW Celebrates Muslim Religion

By **ANDREA CHRISTIE**
Staff Writer

The harsh and whiny New York accent of Penny Marshall was an unusual start to the University of Mary Washington's Islamic Student Association (ISA) week.

The movie night, held on Nov. 6, featured "Looking for Comedy in the Muslim World," and was the first of five events held last week for ISA week.

Senior Mahvash Mujahid, treasurer and secretary of ISA, was looking forward to kicking off the week's events.

"We wanted the movie to be more light-hearted, highlighting the more entertaining aspects of Islamic tradition and culture," she said.

Other events included a henna night (where students could get free henna tattoos), a guest speaker, a coffee house night and to top the whole week off a discussion about Islam followed by a Ramadhan banquet.

"Our goal for the week and always with

ISA is to educate people about the religion. We want to clarify people's misconceptions of the faith and do our best to answer any questions they may have," said senior Amal Omer, ISA historian. "For a campus like UMW, where this is a small Muslim population, I think our club serves to expose people to something new and holds a great educational purpose for many."

ISA week has become an annual event on the UMW campus and is usually held during the month of Ramadhan, one of the two holy months for Muslims. Although this year's week was held a little later than Ramadhan due to conflicts with other events on campus, officers say events were still as popular as past years.

"In terms of response to events everyone enjoyed them and learned a lot," Mujahid said. "People came up to us and said, 'Wow I didn't know this or wasn't informed about what Islam was in general.'"

Junior Sangeetha Manvi, who attended the movie and henna nights, was just one of several students who took part in ISA week's

events.

"The events are good to have during the week because it provides something to do with your friends on 'campus,'" Manvi said. "The movie was a good modern Muslim comedy."

Although henna night and the banquet are still the most popular event, Mujahid was excited to see more people attend this year's lecture titled, "Life Under Occupation in the Middle East," in which Batoul Abuassba, a 15-year-old native of Palestine, spoke on life in Palestine.

"I think the topic this year was interesting for people. It was a different perspective from what you normally hear," Mujahid said. "As one person [who attended the event] said, it was going against the status quo, but he was glad that he heard it."

During Abuassba's presentation to the two-dozen audience members, she spoke of not only the background of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict, but her life experiences living there as well.

"Most children draw about vacations in Hawaii, balloons or playgrounds," Abuassba said in response to a picture her 14-year-old sister drew. "We draw about prisoners and people dying because that's a part of our everyday lives in Palestine."

Abuassba's presentation sparked many comments and questions from audience members, including several whom thanked Abuassba for her courage to tell her story.

However the biggest question of the night, which many audience members remarked was hard to answer, was whether or not Abuassba believes Palestinians

and Israelis could make peace in the near future.

Abuassba did not have a definite answer to the question, but still holds an opinion on the matter.

"In the future, I want refugees to return to their homes in Palestine, prisoners to be set free, apartheid wall and checkpoints removed and compensation for our losses," Abuassba said. "Maybe then, when they leave my land in peace, I will leave them in peace."

The biggest event of the week was the Ramadhan banquet on

Most children draw about vacations in Hawaii, balloons or playgrounds. We draw about prisoners and people dying because that's a part of our everyday lives in Palestine.

-Batoul Abuassba

Thursday night.

The intended speaker was not able to come however, so ISA officers held an open discussion about Islam with those who attended the event.

As many spoke out about what they already knew, ISA officers elaborated and explained questions that others had, including the five pillars that provide the basis for the religion.

"The five pillars are acceptance of faith, prayer, fasting, giving to the poor and pilgrimage," Mujahid said. "They go in order of succession as to what a person can do because the last two require money so they don't need to be accomplished so to speak, but the first one is the most important because as long as you know in your heart that you are Muslim and accept the faith that's all that matters to God."

► See ISA, page 5



Photo Courtesy of Amal Omer

Senior Humeira Akbar (center) and friends dine on Asian desserts and coffee at ISA's coffee house night.

Contraception Classes Continue to Divide Students

By **MONICA OWENS**
Staff Writer

Intervarsity, a University sponsored Christian club at Mary Washington, found themselves in the spotlight recently because of their alleged reaction to birth control classes sponsored by the campus women's clinic.

When posters and signs decrying birth control appeared around campus before the first women's clinic sponsored birth control class of the semester was held, some students attributed these posters to Intervarsity. Intervarsity co-president and Mary Washington senior Molly Albecker said the group is not responsible. The posters said that birth control harms the body and causes damage to several organs.

At the first birth control class, a group of people allegedly went to the class and protested against it. Some said that Intervarsity was part of the protest, but when asked about this, Albecker denied that it was her group.

"I am in charge of planning activities, so if someone had protested I would have known," Albecker said. "It wasn't Intervarsity. I am 99% sure of that."

According to Albecker, Intervarsity strongly believes in the Christian teachings of abstinence until marriage.

"Intervarsity tends not to touch on contraceptives because we try to focus on core Christian values, which contraceptives are not a part of," Albecker said. "We focus on purity."

The faculty advisor of Intervarsity, Associate Professor of

economics, Steve Stageberg, does not support the use of birth control either.

"Sexual

intercourse outside

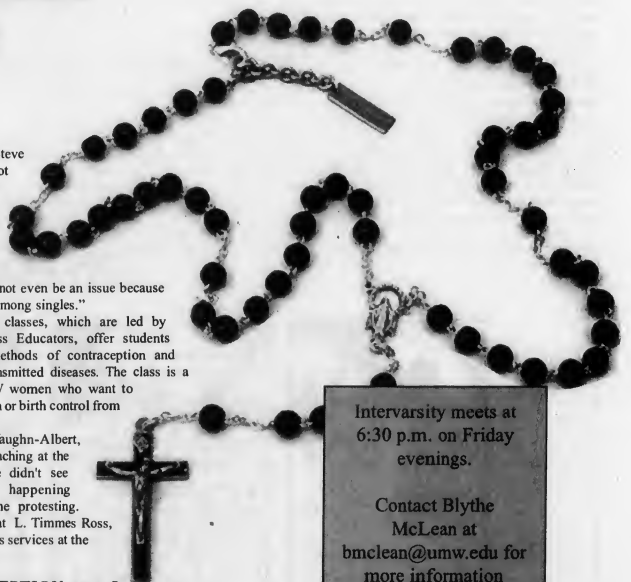
of marriage is a sin,"

Stageberg said.

"Birth control should not even be an issue because sex should not occur among singles."

The birth control classes, which are led by student Peer Wellness Educators, offer students information about methods of contraception and common sexually transmitted diseases. The class is a prerequisite for UMW women who want to receive an examination or birth control from the women's clinic.

Junior Megan Vaughn-Albert, who is in charge of teaching at the clinics, said that she didn't see anything suspicious happening when asked about the protesting. However, she said that L. Timmes Ross, the director of women's services at the



Intervarsity meets at 6:30 p.m. on Friday evenings.

Contact Blythe McLean at bmclean@umw.edu for more information

► See CONTRACEPTION, page 5

Thumbs Up... Thumbs Down...



To Bat Boy



To breaking mirrors.



To Thanksgiving.



To mustangs.

Send your own thumbs to bullet@umw.edu

ISA Members Entertain And Educate Students

ISA, page 4

The end of the discussion came when a student asked ISA members why they chose the Muslim religion. A response from one member seemed to sum it up for everyone.

"It's a religion that teaches you humility, self-control, sacrifice and patience."

According to Mujahid, ISA plans to host an Islamic film festival in the spring, as well as have a few more guest speakers on campus and a trip to Washington, D.C. to view an Islamic art exhibition.

"With the dethroning of the Taliban government, there are more Islamic film makers making movies and talking about

their experiences," Mujahid said. "Many of the films we're looking at have been Golden Globe nominated, as well as documentaries."

Senior Amanda Lemco attended most of the ISA week events and was more than thrilled to hear more events, such as ISA week, were being planned for spring semester.

"There are so many interesting multi-cultural events on campus that are poorly attended," she said. "I'm hoping to see more of campus become involved, because no matter how busy or exhausted you are, these events are consistently worthwhile and extremely informative."



Photo Courtesy of Zareen Ismail

Juniors Meghan Coyle (bottom right) and Ashley Lippolis (top right) enjoy food and good conversation at the Ramadhan banquet on Nov. 9

Intervarsity Denies Responsibility For Birth Control Posters

CONTRACEPTION, page 4

transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies."

"Birth control should not even be an issue because sex should not occur among singles."
-Steve Stageberg, Associate Professor of economics

Health Center, said there were students saying the rosary in protest outside of the class. Ross declined to comment.

Mary Washington is not the only school that is dealing with issues concerning students and sex. Michael Behr, a writer for the University of Virginia's newspaper "The Cavalier."

Daily," wrote an article in 2004 against the Christian belief of abstinence.

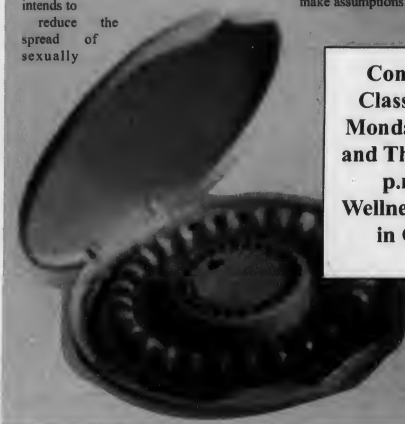
"Many conservative Christian and right-wing groups are promoting abstinence and less talk," Behr said in the article.

"However, abstinence training is not the answer if American society intends to

reduce the spread of sexually

include protection from pregnancy," said a Mary Washington senior who wishes to remain anonymous. "There are several benefits that may not be taken into account because when anyone hears the word they make assumptions about its purpose."

Contraception Classes are held Mondays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Wellness classroom in Goolrick.



Trials And Tribulations Of A Tierney

By **TIERNEY MCALEE**
Assistant Features Editor

It's been a long and tumultuous 22 years for me. I'm just a girl living in a man's world, I've had my heart broken into smithereens and I still haven't mastered the art of the grilled cheese sandwich. Hardships like those are to be expected, though; that's life. But to add insult to injury, my parents just had to go and name me Tierney. This made for a pretty rough childhood and a semi-rough foray into adulthood.

As a child, I hated my name as much as I loved all things Lisa Frank. "Oh, to be called Meghan or Lauren like everyone else!" I often despaired. After all, the object of elementary school children everywhere is to fit in, and how was I supposed to fit in with a weirdo name like Tierney? I'm surprised I managed to distinguish myself from the paste-eaters of the class.

In the early years, my peers were amused by the mere idea of my name. Things got a little more creative in first grade when my arch nemesis, Chris White, stepped up his game with the nickname "Tear Gas." How a first-grade child thought to call me a harmful chemical used for riot control is beyond me. As if that wasn't bad enough, it was pretty much impossible for me to get my hands on personalized pencils.

The later elementary years brought on the introduction of the word "tyranny," which did nothing to soothe my anxiety about having a weird name. For the next six years of my life, every single time the word "tyranny" was mentioned in class, half of my classmates would giggle and look at me knowingly as if the whole absolute power thing was my idea. I still have no idea why this was so amusing to pre-teens. It's not like Tierney is a funny body part or anything.

My life as a Tierney improved when I hit high school and it became OK, even desirable, to be ever so slightly different. I began to see my name as a kind of built-in uniqueness mechanism. I didn't have to dye my hair purple or wear anything weird to stand out because my name did all the work for me. Have I mentioned I'm extremely lazy?

This was also the era of Tear-Knee. Faced with disbelief and confusion when introducing myself, I eventually tired of repeating my name more times than an overplayed LeAnn Rimes song. So I devised a clever way of helping people remember my name. I traced my finger from my eye down the side of my cheek (tear) and then pointed to my knee (knee). This never got old, so don't be surprised if you see me gesturing like a psychopath at new acquaintances.

When I arrived at Mary Washington, my built-in individuality theory promptly blew up in my face. Many of my peers expressed more surprise than usual when I announced my name because, apparently, there was another Tierney on campus. For those of you who are unaware that you are living on a two-Tierney campus, surprise!

alleged "Tierney" Plumb, and began to regard her as though she used to be named something generic like Elizabeth, heard I was coming and legally changed her name to Tierney to foil my plans of being special.

It got weirder when I found out that The Other Tierney was also an English major and we had classes together. I'm surprised I never got whiplash from all the times I swung my neck around in response to someone calling out "Tierney" when they were actually talking to Tierney P.

This year, I'm afraid to admit, I have been out-Tierneyed. Tierney P. is the News Editor of the Bullet while I am merely a lowly assistant features editor. Tierney P. has her own column, complete with Tierney pun in title. Tierney P. got an internship at the Free Lance-Star before I did, so I became The Other

Tierney within the walls of the newsroom. I got a lot of incredulous "There's another Tierney?" comments, as if there's a one-Tierney-per-building rule. Two Tierneys does not a conspiracy make.

I don't mean to sound bitter. I have learned to accept being the primary Tierney in some situations and The Other Tierney, Tierney Mac and T. Mac in others. What really matters is that we Tierneys stick together.

Although I have overcome most of my qualms about having an unusual name, one drawback has stood the test of time. People always expect to hear something fascinating when they ask how my parents picked such an unusual name for me.

Unfortunately, I have no unique story to tell about the origins of my name. I'm always tempted to come up with some elaborate story, like "Oh, my mom named me after this amazing goddess-like explorer she met on the shore of the Irish Sea." But I get the feeling no

one would buy that.

In reality, Mom and Dad picked "Tierney" out of a book of baby names. Not too exciting. I can tell you that my name means noble and lordly, which is acceptable to me. Also, according to Wikipedia, "the name Tierney is interchangeable for 'extremely attractive female.'" I couldn't find any other evidence to support this, until I looked in the mirror. Just a little Tierney humor for you.



Photo Courtesy of Tierney McAlee

Tierney displays her method for helping people remember her name. Above (left) the sign for a tear and (right) pointing to her knee. When the two are combined together, they form Tierney.



Photo Courtesy of Tierney McAlee

What are the odds? I had never met another Tierney in my life and suddenly another one pops up at a school of only 4,000+ people. By the time I introduced myself to people during my freshman year, my name was already old news. Someone actually said to me, "You've seen one, you've seen 'em all." It was soul-crushing.

I found myself thinking cheesy things like, "This place ain't big enough for the both of us." I was very suspicious of this

WEEKLY WORLD

ENTERTAINMENT

Bat Boy Strikes UMW Campus

Eccentric Play a Hit

By SHELLEY CAMPBELL
Contributing Writer

Bat Boy the musical, which opened last Thursday, is a high-spirited and hilarious show. Based on frequent articles in the tabloid "The Weekly World News," the play chronicles the life of a boy found in a cave and his search for acceptance into the community of Hope Falls, West Virginia.

The play opens with the three Taylor children finding Bat Boy in a cave. Bat Boy then finds a home with the Parker family and goes from a feral child to a well-spoken and highly educated young man. This transition from just making random noise to learning to say "hello" is one of the best scenes in the play.

Junior David Ryan Spry gives an excellent and highly convincing performance in his title role. The entire performance is lively and fast paced with most of the jokes hitting home. Some really stand-out actors include senior Jenna Clare Doolittle as Shelley Parker, sophomore Talya Halpern as Ruthie Taylor and Ned, and senior Peter Larson as Roy, Mrs. Taylor, and especially the Reverend Hightower where Larson leads one of the most impressive songs of the show with his very powerful voice.

"I felt as if the audience was more involved and reacted more than in other plays I have seen at UMW," sophomore Grace Boyers said. "Everyone seemed to respond well to the actors."

Sophomore Watt Smith does a fantastic and hilarious job as Lorraine with his quick reactions to everything going on around him. His ability to go from one character to another quickly is very impressive, but his main character Rick Taylor fails to impress the audience, especially during an almost embarrassing rap song.

Some highlights to the show include the opening song "Hold Me, Bat Boy," the scene in which Bat Boy learns proper

etiquette and speech with "Show You a Thing or Two," and of course the outrageous sex scene between Bat Boy and Shelley Parker with "Inside Your Heart."

One major weakness of the play is the placement of actors. While the choreography is fun and exciting the blocking at other times is weak. One actor will stand in front of another completely blocking them from view as they try to deliver crucial lines. The climax of the play is too low on the stage and very hard to see.

Dr. and Mrs. Parker played by senior Jon Reynolds and freshman Jessica DeGeorge respectively give fantastic performances. Reynolds, although a little stiff, blows the audience away with his singing voice, and DeGeorge gives a thoughtful performance to her complex character.

"The whole cast has been working hard on it for months now and we're all really proud of how it's come out," junior Kirk Jacobson, who plays Sheriff Reynolds, said. Constance Smith of the English department said she attended the performance with a friend who had seen the original production off Broadway.

Senior Lecturer in English Constance Smith thought the theatre department did an excellent job with the piece.

"The musical is weird and delightful and deserves a full house and a good crowd. It should spark a lot of discussion as it brings up issues from treatment of those who are 'different' to medical experimentation to the wisdom of trying to raise cattle on the side of a mountain. Certainly everyone on campus should see it," she said.

The show is well worth the 8 dollars it costs for students with UMW IDs to see it and will be showing Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

In addition, Jacobson said he "will personally hug everyone who comes to see the show."



Photo Courtesy of weeklyworldnews.com

Students Lock Lips in Battle

By ERICA MASON and ESTHER LEE
Staff Writers

Three pelvises gyrated to the beat of a European techno number while several hundred University of Mary Washington students gazed in awe of the performers on stage. Clad only in boxers, the guys bounced and bumped, finding little time to be distracted by the hoots and gasps in the audience.

On Nov. 7 at 8 p.m., the Class Council held its annual Lip Sync contest in Dodd Auditorium, giving out nearly \$1,000 in prizes. Contestants, such as the three UMW males frolicking in their underwear, competed against 11 other acts for the number one spot, which included a \$400 pay check.

Seniors Chase Llewellyn, Bryan Hargrove and Tommy Park danced

around, not entirely in a choreographed fashion, as two males and one female. The show slowly morphed into craziness as the suits began to come off piece by piece. By the end of the act there were two half-naked guys in their underwear, one prancing around in elephant boxers and another just barely in some semblance of a skirt.

According to Sophomore Class Council member Sarah Isaac, there were no auditions, meaning that anything was possible.

"No, we don't screen the acts. That was a complete surprise to us," Isaac said of the nearly-naked act.

However, the trio was not alone in their provocative and interesting dance choices; there was also an appearance by Prince, performed by a student jiving on stage in tight leather pants and little to none shirt.

The only requirements for competing were signing up and giving a music selection to the Class Council. Hosted by council members Marisa Dominic, Evan Stepanick, both seniors, and sophomore Pat Whelan, the competition has been going on for years.

The show opened with a special performance from the winners of last year's competition, 2006 graduates Shana Muhammad and Drew Fristoe, doing a medley of

songs which included the title piece, "Ebony and Ivory." At one point, Muhammad fluttered on stage as a rhythmic gymnast while Fristoe mouthed lyrics from "Dirty Dancing's" "She's Like the Wind".

Among several contemporary pop songs and oldies, 80s music was the most popular choice for the contestants. Lip sync-ers pretended to belt out tunes from icons like Prince and Rick Springfield.

Senior Laura Dowell was concerned after the close of the first act, when the performers attacked the audience with lollipops and glow sticks to the tune of the "Mission Impossible" theme song.

"I honestly thought I might get a glow stick on the eye. That was a little too involved for me," she said.

A panel of five judges, made up of faculty, administration and students, determined the placement of the contestants. In addition to musical selection and lip sync accuracy, the judges also examined costumes and choreography.

First place winner Colleen McMichael, a junior, had high hopes for her act's choreography.

"Well, I wanted to sing Journey because I wanted a fog machine. But they didn't have fog machines this

year," McMichael said.

McMichael's act, Hans and the Helicopters, still managed to nab first place while jammung on tennis rackets and brooms to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing". McMichael lip synced into a hairbrush for other songs in their medley, which included "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond.

Junior Megan McCrum said Hans and the Helicopters spent around five hours practicing, and had several reasons for competing this year.

Exciting
Finale!
▶ Page 7

JUST
IN!

By WILL COPPS
Assistant Entertainment Editor

Carbon Leaf, singers of hit song "The Boxer," are coming to Dodd Auditorium on November 29.

The band, based out of Richmond, is just coming off the September release of their seventh album, "Love Loss Hope Repeat." The album shows an even more polished sound for a band that has spent the past few years opening for bands like Guster and the Dave Matthews Band. The vocal work on the album is especially strong and unique, helping the band successfully pull off their brand of Celtic-sounding rock.

While the tracks are mostly consistently good, there is one ridiculous exception. Entitled "A Girl and Her Horse," the song might honestly have the worst lyrics I've ever heard. Let me share the hook lines. "Sometimes you find

yourself far, far behind on the course. Some things best left between girl and her horse." It's sad that those are probably by far the best lyrics in the song. The band continues on to state that every girl, in fact, does have a horse.

Thankfully it's not reflective of the rest of their songwriting ability, and the album serves as a worthy addition to their catalog. It is easy to see why the band is so widely popular as they showcase all of their different strengths.

Tickets for the show are currently on sale in the campus center between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on school days, or they can be purchased online at <http://students.unw.edu/~giant>

Tickets are 5 dollars for UMW students (with ID) and 10 dollars for the general public. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and the show, being put on by Giant Productions, starts at 9 p.m.

As well as food and recording devices not being permitted, girls are encouraged to leave their horses outside.



CARBON LEAF Set to Play Dodd!!!

TANTALIZING TALES OF OVERHEARD!!!

"Then I'd have bread for my Bread Gun!"

- A doughy vigilante

Submitted by sophomore Beth Wilkins

"Don't worry, I got all of the ninjas out of the tree. They're all gone."

- A kung-fu cleaner

Submitted by junior Melissa Leggett

Send us your overheard at zbowm8jc@umw.edu and you'll be automatically entered into a monthly drawing for A DOZEN FREE Krispy Kreme!

Students Sync Into Victory

◀ FINALE, page 6

"We mostly did it for fun, but we're poor, too," McCrum said.

The second place prize of \$300 went to a male duo singing "A Whole New World" from Disney's "Aladdin". Dressed in authentic Disney cartoon garb, the pair locked eyes as they sailed around stage on their faux magic carpet. Sophomore Daniel Curran, who played the role of "Jasmine", even had a long black ponytail. He was surprised at his act's placement.

"We whipped this together two hours ago," he said. "There was a vacant spot, and they needed somebody to fill it."

Third place and \$200 went to the New Spice Girls, a group of four girls and one guy performing "Stop". Each person took on a different member of the group, but the crowd favorite was the guy dressed up as Scary Spice.

Despite the crowd's favor with the top three acts, many audience members, such as Sophomore Kyle Yolles, were still in wonder of the techno-thrilling males.

"The three guys... outrageous!" Yolles said. "There's that line that you cross, and they definitely went over it."

The show closed with "The Rowe St. Dancing Queens", seniors Andrew Greeley and Mike Moscarelli lip-synched to "Put a Little Love in Your Heart", and were coincidentally the only act with a male dressed as a female that didn't include a wardrobe malfunction.

Laura Dowell was slightly confused about what type of show she had just attended.

"There were moments when I wasn't sure if I was at a lip sync contest or a Chippendales show," she said.



PORN OVERDOSE!!

Top 5 Reasons Why People Need to Chill Out on the

Porno

By ANDY DRAKE
Staff Writer

1. Nobody is interested in what you do when your roommate is in class

The first thing someone should ask themselves before writing something that's going into wide circulation, is whether anyone is actually interested in what you're talking about. I would argue (and hope) that anyone's undying love of Tera Patrick and Company pornography as a subject for conversation should never be taboo, but an article whose entire point is to declare one's borderline obsession with the subject seems a bit pointless. But hey, at least the people at the computer help desk know where all the network's bandwidth is going.

2. Porn DOES objectify women

No matter how one twists logic, one thing is undeniable: porn encourages men to think of women as objects for sexual gratification, instead of fellow human beings. Any argument that both men and women are objectified because they're both on camera is completely ridiculous. Anyone who has seen a traditional porno knows exactly how they end. Facials or "the money shot" is undeniably, an act of sexual domination, subjugation and most importantly humiliation. The way women are treated in the vast majority of porn films is just flat-out gross.

3. Women don't enjoy being controlled by men

It seems that the majority of some people's sexual development comes from Cosmopolitan, Men's Health magazine, Hollywood and of course porno. Taken in this light, I can almost see where these people are coming from. This may come as a shock to some but Hollywood actresses are just that, actresses. They get paid to do whatever their directors or producers ask them to do. Trust me, just because Catherine Zeta Jones looks like she's enjoying Sean Connery's attention in "Entrapment," doesn't mean she is. It's all pretend. Regardless of what Cosmo says, I'm willing to bet that if you asked the average woman on the street whether she likes to be controlled in sexual situations, the positive responses would be few and far between. This natural assumption that women enjoy being sexually dominated is a problem that extends far beyond someone's personal opinion.

4. Romance novels are not the same as erotica

First of all, do people still read romance novels? I think I once saw one on my great aunt's shelf when I was about six years old, but definitely not since. But anyways, let's assume for a moment that romance novels have the same massive audience, make as much money and are used for the same purposes as traditional porno. My question would be this: who cares? When an author writes a story about people doing the nasty, it doesn't require actual people to participate. The exploitation factor is zero. The only things hurt by romance novels are the author's and Fabio's respective reputations.

5. Porn and sex-ed are not synonymous

I'm not sure where some people were during those awkward high school sex-ed classes but maybe their diploma should be revoked. This goes back to what I said earlier about the difference between acting and reality. The sex in porno is faker than the dinosaurs in "Jurassic Park." Everything is choreographed and shot to be as provocative as possible. It may be sexually arousing, but you might as well be learning kung fu from Bruce Lee or family values from Bill Cosby. If this knowledge gained from porno is brought to the bedroom, then my heartfelt sympathies go out to respective (or more likely prospective) lovers everywhere.

Randolph Barbecue Almost A Bust

By: MATT ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The Randolph barbecue has been a tradition of Randolph Hall for many years. Seacoast provides the delicious hotdogs and hamburgers while you and your friends enjoy the live music provided by student bands. Sounds like an all-around good time on campus, right? Well that was the idea that the Randolph Hall Council had for this year's barbecue. However, due to miscommunication and a failure to turn in required forms, the organizers of the barbecue were unable to get everything they needed.

Due to a lack of sound equipment, the Randolph barbecue was missing the essential ingredient in taking their picnic to the next level. Junk Science, a local band made up of University of Mary Washington students and Fredericksburg residents, provided live entertainment but was hit hardest by the lack of sound equipment.

"It was disappointing...we were expecting a PA for an electric show, which would have drawn a bigger crowd," freshman Ephraim Firdyiwiek and Junk Science member said.

Battle of the Bands winner Grave-Robbing Extravaganza was also supposed to play at the barbecue, but apparently failed to turn in their entrance forms on time.

Initially, the barbecue was scheduled for Friday, Nov. 3. Residents of Randolph each paid 15 dollars as part of hall council dues to make the barbecue happen.

Randolph Hall President, Emily Curtis, submitted a tech request form on Oct. 31 which is required for the use of a PA system. However, according to the Office of Student Activities and Community Service (OSACS), an event notice must be sent at least 10 days in advance.

Curtis complied and the barbecue was then postponed and rescheduled for the following Thursday, Nov. 9.

UMW Sound Crew foreman, Ross Marshall, told the Bulletin that OSACS received a tech request form from Curtis for the barbecue when it was scheduled for Oct. 3. However, when the barbecue was postponed, Marshall said he did not receive notification from Curtis that the date had changed. According to procedure, another tech request form would have been required for use of a PA system on Nov. 9.

Nobody at the barbecue seemed to know why OSACS was unable to provide the sound equipment. However, most people did not seem to care. The turnout of people, though not as large as expected, seemed to have a good time scarfing down burgers and hotdogs and dancing to the acoustic sounds of Junk Science, which brought a lightened mood to a day that could have turned sour.

Freshman Joey Merkel expressed some disappointment with the way OSACS handled the event, but commented on the success of the barbecue.

"We're just lucky it turned out to be such a nice day," Merkel said.

Weekly Campus Events Calendar

By: JULIE SKARWECKI
Staff Writer

Open Mic Night and Food Drive

Begins: Thursday, November 16, at 10pm

Ends: Friday, Nov. 17 at 12pm

Set to be held in the Washroom, Giant Productions and Mortar Board have combined two timeless forms of entertainment: unregulated student microphone access and non-perishable food collections! Students in attendance will revive one raffle ticket for every non-perishable food item they bring to the event for the chance to win an iPod!

WMWC Folk Show

Friday, Nov. 17

5pm- 930pm

Lee Hall Ballroom

Hosted by the UMW radio station, the show offers students a chance to experience the musical stylings

of four folk-tastic bands! The line-up includes the Louisiana Gator Boys, featuring members of Junk Science, as well as none other than UMW's very own Brady Earnhart!

Queer FilmFest

Begins: Saturday, Nov. 18, 7pm

Ends: Sunday, November 19, 1am

Great Hall

Prism's long-anticipated, annual FilmFest has finally arrived, offering three (free!) queer-themed films followed by relevant discussions, led by some of the leading members of the UMW faculty!

Films and Discussion Leaders:

Adam & Steve—Discussion led by Cedric Rucker

Imagine Me & You—Discussion led by Amy Kuipers

Bad Education—Discussion led by Brady Earnhart



News

Watkins Promotes New Book

By STACY HORNE
Staff Writer

Three boys in Florida have decided to kill an elephant. They sit and contemplate the best approach to killing the animal, which has remained chained outside of a roadside zoo for years. As they ponder their options, the elephant abruptly dies and collapses onto a car, trapping a young girl inside.

This is "Criterworld," a story from Steve Watkins' recently-published book, "My Chaos Theory." The book, featuring an elephant's derriere on the cover, is a collection of short stories that Watkins has written over the last 20 years. It was published by Southern Methodist University Press in Oct. 2006.

Watkins, an associate professor of English at Mary Washington, has held several readings to promote his book, including one on campus where he read the aforementioned story, his most anthologized work. On Friday, Oct. 27, Watkins also read to a standing-room-only crowd at Riverby Books on Caroline St. Over 60 people attended that reading, ranging in age from about 20 to 70. Junior Lauren Boston, sports editor for *The Bulletin*, was one of several students there.

"Steve's reading was very entertaining," Boston said. "I love seeing someone take so much pride in their work and you could really see that on Steve's face as he read."

Watkins submitted his book to publishers a year before receiving the formal notification that SMU Press wanted to publish it in Sept. 2005. The good news coincided with his return from China, where he and his wife, Janet, adopted a baby girl.

Before publication, "My Chaos Theory" was a finalist for the Flannery O'Connor award, given annually to an outstanding collection of short stories. Individually, his stories have won numerous awards, such as the Pushcart Prize.

They have also been featured in several publications including "Best American Short Stories."

Watkins' first book, "The Black O: Racism and Redemption in an American Corporate Empire" was published in 1997 and won the Virginia College Stores Award for Best Book by a Virginia author.

"Bocky Bocky" is Watkins' latest work and, by his own estimation, one of his most unusual. The story is about a widower who spends his summer in a town called Kismet. When he comes across the body of a drowned man that has washed up on the beach, he decides to put the corpse into a yoga position. Uma Thurman later shows up and does yoga with them as well.

UMW Alumni Emily Simpson owns Riverby Books with her husband, Paul Cymrot. Simpson, a former English major who graduated in 1997, introduced Watkins to the crowd at the reading Friday night.

"Steve was always one of my favorite professors because he led discussions with humor and energy," Simpson said. "He is funny and caring and interested."

Fredericksburg resident Kathleen Walsh, an artist, attended the reading with a friend.

"Literature is flourishing in Fredericksburg

and we are just becoming aware of it," she said. "I want to help that."

Walsh said that in previous towns where she lived, readings by local authors were regular events.

"Events like this challenge their creativity and I love it," Walsh said. "This has been wonderful."

Watkins and Cymrot planned the event, and were unsure of what to expect. Simpson told her husband that he could pick out the food to be served, and he suggested Twizzlers and M&M's. Wine and cheese were served as well.

"Steve and my husband are friends and they put this together," Simpson said. "[Watkins] is from the community and has a big group of friends. I just don't know if it would work this well with anyone else."

For his part, Watkins was pleased with the turnout.

"It couldn't have been more gratifying," he said. "People from all walks of life were there; old friends, new friends, students and people just walking by. The venue was wonderful and people hung out forever afterwards."

Boston agreed.

"Steve's humor seems to resonate with everyone, from retired residents to college students," she said. "He was very appreciative to everyone that came out to support him."

Riverby sold about 30 books that

night, most signed by Watkins.

"I bought a book and had him sign it," Boston said. "And I grabbed two Twizzlers on the way out."

For more information on the book and Dr. Watkins, visit Watkins.elsweb.org.01



Photo Courtesy of Steve Watkins

Some International Students Stay Stateside For Thanksgiving

◀ THANKSGIVING, page 1

United States that they can call home except for the campus.

Though the campus virtually shuts down for the holiday, students are allowed to stay in their dorm room or campus apartment after first getting permission from the office of residence life.

Director Christine Porter said that students are allowed to stay in their rooms if they receive authorization.

"Students need to let us know at least a week ahead of time if they plan on staying on campus," said Porter. "We have a deadline that we must adhere to," she said.

The deadline allows the residence life staff sufficient time to notify campus police and

maintenance of the students staying on campus.

For students leaving campus for break, the dorms close at noon on Wednesday and cannot be re-entered until 2pm on Sunday.

"If a student decides to come back early, they could find themselves sitting outside for a long time," said Porter. "Their card will not even allow them access 5 minutes before the scheduled reopening."

With the card system, Porter said building access can be altered to allow only those students who have received prior authorization to enter during the times when the dorms are closed.

Musick said it is not unusual for students who live far from home to go away for the holiday with a friend or roommate.

Tong agreed that many international students choose to leave campus for the break.

"Even for international students, most are not staying here. Most want to travel," she said.

She has seen several flyers on the board in Framar Hall about students getting together and traveling to places like Boston for the holiday. Framar is known as the International Living Center and houses several international students.

Tong has decided to go to New York with a friend from Indiana for the holiday. They will be meeting in Fredericksburg and taking a bus to Chinatown for a couple of days.

Musick, who lived overseas for five years, said that he spent many holidays sitting around watching weird TV shows.

"You can imagine that they watch the Macy's Day Parade and say 'God these Americans do weird things,'" he said. "But it does give them another way to learn about our culture."

New Administration Welcomes Skaters Back To Campus, Signs Taken Down

◀ SKATEBOARDING, page 1

"Arguments in the past have involved the integrity of the brick on campus walk," junior Fitzgerald said. "Another issue was of skateboarders hitting students skateboarding down hills."

Eric Reingold is a commuting UMW senior who travels to class more by riding than by walking and does not see boarding as dangerous to the public.

"Skateboards are more maneuverable [than bikes] and can be heard from farther away," Reingold said. "You can always jump off to prevent an accident, though if a skateboarder is putting someone in danger, he should have more practice before doing it in public."

Curran, aware of the property damage skateboard tricks can cause, disagreed with how well the arguments that upheld the policy apply to campus riding.

"Our campus is not built for skating," Curran said. "Students can't do tricks on the brick walk because of the mortar. The board gets stuck."

Rick Hurley, vice president for administration and finance, thinks that students attempt to do

tricks anyway.

"If you take a close look at the brick flower gardens in the middle of campus walk, you will see chipped bricks where skateboarders ride the edges," said Hurley. "There is also concern for the building steps."

Short boards, or "trickboards," have two lips on the ends that enable a rider to trick with it, but the brick surface on campus discourages most students from using a short board. Long boards are much more common.

"You can't trick with a longboard because they are wider and the deck is longer [than a skateboard]. They are designed for cruising," Curran said. "Nobody [on campus] should be grinding down brick."

Dr. Chirico believes that nobody is, as far as he can tell.

"I didn't see much in the way of damage,"

Chirico said. "I didn't see the problems, so I asked [President] Frawley if we could remove the signs. He agreed, and told me to go ahead and remove them."

Chirico explained that though the removal of the signs was not a result of the Senate motions, they kept him aware of how the students felt about the situation.

"I can appreciate where students stand, whether the motions were passed or not," Chirico said.

The removal of the signs give skateboarders an opportunity to ride down campus, without worrying that a campus police officer might give them a warning or a violation for trying to get to class on time.

John Sheridan, a sophomore who was never deterred from riding down campus on his board while the policy was in effect, is glad that the signs were taken down.

"It is about damn time," he said.

“It's about damn time.”

—John Sheridan

Students Scavenge For Food

By JESSY SIMON
Staff Writer

Thanks to the University of Mary Washington athletic department, the Fredericksburg Food Bank will be receiving at least one turkey or ham from every varsity team before Thanksgiving. On top of that, the teams will also be holding a community wide scavenger hunt to collect other non-perishable food items, which will also be donated to the food bank.

The scavenger hunt is being led by juniors and women lacrosse players Elizabeth Conway, Amie Bruce, and Julia Durkin. It was Durkin who came up with the idea and presented it to the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (S.A.A.C.) on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

"We wanted to do a community service project for Thanksgiving but wanted it to be different from our angel tree gifts we do for Christmas," Conway said. "So we basically wanted to stay away from simply donating 5-10 dollars to the SAAC reps."

For their new Thanksgiving community service project, the S.A.A.C. will be collecting \$1 from each member of every team. This money will go toward purchasing at least one turkey or ham per team to be donated to the food bank.

As opposed to buying other Thanksgiving food items themselves, the athletes are encouraged to find the items by asking friends, neighbors, professors and anyone else in the UMW community to donate. Although sides such as canned vegetables, instant mashed potatoes, stuffing and canned gravy are encouraged, any type of non-perishable food will be accepted.

Food donations are not limited to UMW athletes- the scavenger hunt's creator, Julia Durkin, urges the entire community to participate.

"We're trying to get the whole school and neighborhood involved," Durkin said. "We're really hoping that it won't just be the athletes scrambling for food on the last day."

According to S.A.A.C. coordinator Dana Hall, the athletes will be putting the food that they collect into labeled boxes located on the third floor of Goodrick Hall. There is one box designated for each team, but anyone wishing to donate may place non-perishable food into any of these boxes.

Senior track and field team member Caroline Reardon said that the scavenger hunt was a creative idea. "I'll be interested to see how much the community wants to get involved," Reardon said.

The scavenger hunt began Monday, Nov. 13 and will continue until Monday Nov. 20 at noon. At this time, the food will be delivered to the food bank. According to Durkin, the team that collects the most amount of food based on the size of their team will win a pizza party provided by the S.A.A.C.

"A pizza party is miniscule compared to what we can do for the community," Hall said.

Although this is the first time that the scavenger hunt will be held, Bruce, Durkin, and Conway hope to make it a tradition for UMW athletes.

"It's fairly easy to do and we'll all be here next year to do it again," Bruce said.

Students wishing to donate food will find a list of items accepted by the Fredericksburg Food Bank at http://www.fredfood.org/holiday_foodlist.htm.

Don't Be Like This Guy



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bullet@gmail.com

Viewpoints

Tiers To You, Kid!

By Tierney Plumb, Associate Editor

It's been almost three months since you've seen your best friend. That's longer than the time she went away for band camp in the fourth grade.

So why, during next week's first "universal college break," are you two so suddenly at a loss for words?

My new dance team membership at a small liberal arts college and Nora's preparations to rush for Tri Delta at a school of 25,000 didn't give us similar material to converse about.

Plus we didn't have the luxury of Facebook the fall of '03, so I had no idea what her friends, new crushes-or she-currently looked like.

She broke the ice by making fun of my acquired college style. "Nice hobo look, Tier." We took the metro to my 22-year-old sister's party in Arlington, an area known as college: part two.

My sister's friends (UVA graduates...but forever frat boys) were more than thrilled to interact with college freshman again and suddenly we were thrown right back into the college scene.

Nora and I impressed one another-and the party-with the assortment of card games we knew how to play.

Coming home at 3 a.m. didn't fly with the parents, however.

They understand you want to see your friends from home, but you need to allot a given amount of time to each party.

What better place than the dinner table to expel your knowledge on Psych 101's Freudian theories, as you inhale your dad's fabulous cooking.

If you're going to make a cameo appearance at your high school, do it by the end of this year. I wouldn't dare show my wrinkled face there now; the front office might confuse me with a substitute teacher.



But rewind to three years ago, six months after I graduated high school, it was empowering to grace the hallways with Nora as the "big kids on [Paul VI High School's] campus."

It's the only time in which you, a freshman, have seniority over a senior.

I remember an uninformed PVI senior (locked in on attending a big state university) asked me, "Isn't Mary Washington an all-girls school?"

Nora, as always, had my back: "No, but don't forget to lock your locker. And cool uniform."

What Can I Do At Home?

- Dance clubs are 18+. And so are you.
- Buy Christmas presents for UMW friends (embrace Black Friday).
- Eat at your favorite hangouts. Ours was Glory Days.
- Catch up on work. Or spend some QT with your dog.

Nora Passamonti



(Virginia Tech) wrote at 8:32pm on November 8th, 2006:
i miss you. i love you. less than 2 weeks til t-giving break aka clarendon ballroom every nite
Wait-to-Wait: Write on Nora's Wall - Message - Delete

Three years later, Tiers and her best friend from home, Nora, still can't wait to be reunited at Thanksgiving break. Now 21, they plan on enjoying the Arlington nightlife.

"Sex" Sucks

The following three letters were written in response to "Sexclamations" in general and "I Heart Porn" (Nov. 9, 2006, *The Bulletin*) in particular.

Dear Editor:

I have a concern regarding the "Sexclamations" column in the paper.

I understand most Va. state universities have a sex column in their papers, but say I'm a parent, taking my high school student on a tour of campus and I see posters all over the school about how "most UMW students have safe sex

even after drinking," and then I open the school newspaper and see a column giving advice to students who are consistently being promiscuous outside of a relationship.

I wouldn't be inclined to send my student to this school.

I feel that having the column in the newspaper further emphasizes and encourages promiscuity and casual sex on campus and by advertising our "most UMW" statistics we degrade the school and establish our low standards with the community.

I am friends with the columnist and this is not an attack on her, this is merely an expression of my own personal views about the subject.

Michelle Welcher is a senior.

Dear Editor:

I have become increasingly outraged by the "Sexclamations" column that appears in the University's weekly paper.

The past few months I have been able to hold my tongue, but after this past week's column on porn, I am unable to do so.

I will not even get into the litigious discussion on the author's view of how porn may or may not objectify women and men (of course it does), or how the author states that "women prefer a male who takes control," because trust me, I could go on for hours.

Rather, I want to object to the column as a whole.

Not only do I find the column extremely crude and tasteless in the topics it discusses, but I also find it offensive and misrepresentative of the student population.

The column speaks like all of the paper's readers are sex-crazed zealots who have nothing better to do with their time than think about sex, but this is not true.

Yes, I know that we are in college and sex is prevalent; you can't go out on the weekends without sex staring you in the face, but that does

not mean that I want to come home and read about someone else's sexual preferences and experiences, whether they are prudish or lascivious.

“You should focus less on lewd and risky sexual behaviors and pastimes...and instead address the implications and consequences...”

-Rachel Nania

And on that note, what even qualifies you to give other students sexual advice?

Have you really had that much more experience than the rest of us?

I understand that sex is great and is part of college, and really, I am all for it.

But maybe you should focus less on lewd and risky sexual behaviors and pastimes, and instead address the implications and consequences that arise when people engage in too much promiscuous behavior.

Or, if you are going to continue your advice column on how

one can "spice up" his or her sex life, I think you can do it less graphically.

Rachel Nania is a News Staff Writer and senior.

Sexclamations

Thanks, Science!

By Elz England, Staff Writer



If I take hormonal contraception, I won't be able to find Mr. Right?! Whatever shall I do?

Well, I could start with a little research.

The anti-hormonal contraception poster campaign has been the subject of quite a controversy on this campus. One can correctly assume that since I write a sex column I don't think hormonal contraceptives are the source of all evil. Personally, I think hormonal contraception is the best thing-since sliced bread. Scratch that. It's cooler than sliced bread, even the cinnamon swirl kind.

Women now have the power to plan effectively their pregnancy which opens many doors in the business world. We are no longer slaves to unplanned pregnancies that once sabotaged all hopes of success outside of the home.

In addition, girls or women who at one time were prey to incapacitating cramps, bloating, menstrual pain or an irregular cycle now have the option to live all 28 days of their cycle without contemplating a self-induced hysterectomy.

I have one positive thing to say about this anti-hormonal contraception campaign: it is causing students to think, argue, research and speak out. The purpose of this week's column is to provide you, the curious student, with the information about hormonal contraception that the majority of doctors, pharmacists, research, and the government support.

Hormonal contraception includes the pill, the patch, the ring, the shot and certain intrauterine devices (IUDs). They work by releasing hormones like those that already naturally occur within the body. Most of them are a combination of estrogen and progesterin; however, several forms only use progesterin. These hormones prevent ovulation, thus no egg is released from the ovary. No egg, no potential pregnancy. Secondly, hormonal contraception thins the endometrium (the lining of the uterus) and thickens cervical mucus.

Dear Editor:

On a visceral level, last week's "Sexclamations" column was offensive and revolting. Is the column meant to inform, educate and represent its readers with accuracy, or is it a personal platform for the author to shock readers?

We support the right to free speech. However, sexual-related topics are sensitive and should not be discussed flippantly in print. A better way to discuss this topic might have been to offer statistics and abandon generalizations.

Daniel Coo writes for a study from *Cosmopolitan* magazine, in which it was found that "when it comes to the bedroom, women prefer a male who takes control." Should a magazine like *Cosmopolitan* speak for us? We do not think so.

Furthermore, what exactly is the point of his article? That porn is okay? That all guys watch porn?

That we, as women, should not take issue with porn, because after all: "you ladies have your porn too." What a massive generalization.

Coo writes "most of the girls in the movies I watch look like they're having a pretty damn good time." Since when should we assume that everything we see in the movies is real? Newsflash: Tera Patrick is paid to act like she is having the time of her life in those movies.

Coo writes that he is "still not exactly sure what it (female objectification) means." We know what it means and our guess is that most of the readers do, too.

Porn creates unrealistic expectations about sex and about women. A recent study on effects of massive exposure to pornography done by researchers for the *Journal of Pornography and Sexual Aggression* shows that regular users of pornography are more likely to think of women in stereotype, as sexually hysterical and overly eager to satisfy each and every male sexual desire. Porn helps to reinforce the objectification

The posters will provide you with alleged negative side effects. But, here is a

list of great things studies have shown hormonal contraception does: regulates the menstrual cycle, reduces menstrual pain, reduces risk for ovarian cancer, reduces risk for endometrial cancer, reduces bone loss associated with aging, helps with acne, reduces risk of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), reduces risk of iron deficiency anemia and reduces risk of pregnancy.

There are always potential negative side effects, including blood clots. That is why the decision whether to use hormonal contraception should be taken seriously. Do your research on the methods you're interested in. Find the potential negative side effects, weigh your options and talk to your doctor.

Bottom line: before you judge based on a campus poster or one sex column, do your own research. Birth control has been around since the 1960s and is constantly improving, so don't let a couple of posters scare you. Improvements in hormonal contraceptives offer clearer complexities, the patch, the ring and even fewer periods.

For more info: womenshealthchannel.com/contraception/hormonal.shtml, knowmycycle.com, 4woman.gov/faq/birthcont.htm.

P.S. Dear Poster People: I may be channeling feminist Betsy (former "Sexclamations" co-author), but I was personally offended by the poster about "Mr. Right." This is the 21st century and girls should be in college to learn, not to get an MRS degree. Our sole purpose in life should not be finding a man, even if he is "Mr. Right."

Note: For those of you inspired by Dan's column, I just wanted to add my piece. Dan argued that porn gives you tips in bed. Guys, there are certain things in porn that you should not try at home if you value your personal safety. If you're really in need of tips, ask the girl. Trust me, asking girls what they like isn't a turn off; trying something kind of freaky you saw in a porn very well may be.

of women and stereotypes which are damaging to women.

Regular users of pornography are more likely to have sexually cavalier attitudes and agree with the "rape myth" (that when a woman says "no," she means "yes"), according to a study done in 1995 in the *Journal of Communication* on exposure to pornography and acceptance of rape myths. Porn can desensitize the male attitude towards sex and women.

Coo ignores the fact that there are types of sexual arousal which can cause harm to other individuals and the role of pornography in these types of arousal. He completely bypasses the issue of child pornography. He writes: "The ultimate goal with both genres of entertainment is sexual arousal. Perhaps the difference between visual pornography and romance novels is just that: the means of arousal."

Sexual arousal is also the ultimate goal of pedophiles who search for child porn using the high-speed Internet, which Coo credits with his ability to obtain porn so easily.

If porn is okay, is child porn also okay? It causes arousal for pedophiles, doesn't it? If porn truly is okay, as Coo says it is, then where is the line drawn? Again, Coo generalizes; he claims that all types of sexual arousal are permissible and should be accepted if they fall under the heading of pornography.

Not only students read *The Bulletin*. Faculty, staff, potential students, their parents and alumni also read the paper. We should care about how these people perceive us as a student body. *The Bulletin* and "Sexclamations" is not a positive reflection of our student body; it makes us look crude, immature and uninformed.

Overall, the "Sexclamations" column is a disappointment to those who desire an educated discussion of sexually related topics. It is ill-informed and has never provided us with any concrete and useful information.

Laura Dowell and Leah Triplett are seniors.



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- 3) *The New Spice Girls*

and

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- 1) *The Grave-Robbing Extravaganza*
- 2) *Attack Penguin*
- 3) *Junk Science*

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Test preparation and taking	Mon. Nov. 27	3-4:30 pm	Chandler 202

No pre-registration required, but if you'd like to be sure of a spot sign-up at http://www.umw.edu/cas/acservices/services/study/study_skills_signup.php or by calling x1010.

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Eagles Dive Into Season

Swim Team Sweeps Catholic at Home

By MARIE PURKERT
Staff Writer

Minutes before Saturday's meet got underway, the University of Mary Washington swimming team made their presence known.

With the spirit of a football huddle, the Eagles linked arms, bobbing up and down as they shouted, "U-M-W." Catholic University watched from the stands, slightly taken aback.

The Eagles managed to maintain their level on intensity, sweeping Catholic University in a dual meet.

The women won 132-61, improving to 4-1, while the men won 121-76, improving to 3-2.

With a win right off the blocks in the 400 yard medley relay, the women never gave Catholic a chance.

Junior Abby Koch, who won the 1000 yard freestyle in 11:18.58, was excited at how well the girl's swam.

"The girls team is improving every week and we are getting to the point where we can be happy with our times and feel strong in our races," she said.

Along with Koch, senior Amy Carlson, junior Kristen LaCoe, freshman Michelle Sawyer, senior Patricia Dilger, freshman Erin McCracken, freshman Sarah Wilcox, freshman Bridget Travers and junior Ally Kight added individual wins.

Junior Austin Cobb shared Koch's sentiments. "We had a bunch of best times from people, which sets us up well for the rest of the season," Cobb said.

The men's team was led in the pool by freshman Justin Anderson, senior Luke Moss,

senior Dale Parker, junior Jason Philpot and sophomore Cameron Rice, who each touched the wall first in their races.

With so many individual wins, it is clear that both the men's and the women's teams will be competitive at this week's Terrapin Invitational at the University of Maryland. UMW will be the only Division three team competing in the three-day-long meet.

Junior Sarah Lindberg has high hopes for the coming weekend.

"I'm excited to see how we can step up and compete against these Division I kids," she said.

Koch knows that the women are ready for the Terrapin Invitational.

"This is a really big meet, and we should see some really fast times from girls on our team," Koch said.

Despite falling to William and Mary in their first dual meet of the season, the Eagles have kicked their back to place where they are more comfortable: winning.

Since the W&M meet, the women have defeated

Salisbury, Gallaudet Washington & Lee, and now Catholic.

The men, however, have picked off Salisbury, Gallaudet, Catholic and barely lost to W&L.

With a few meets of strong swimming, the team has already begun to create a tight bond.

Lindberg was quick to point out that although the individual wins were a huge part of Saturday's Catholic defeat, the team bonded together.

"We came together and crushed the competition," Lindberg said. "Everyone got up for their races and the rest of the team was cheering the whole time."

"I'm excited to see how we can step up and compete against these Division I kids."
- Sarah Lindberg



Lauren Boston/Bullet

Senior Dale Parker waits at the starting block Saturday to begin his race against Catholic University. The University of Mary Washington men and women both came out on top, 121-76 and 132-61, respectively.

Blast From The Past

Reliving Those High School Football Days

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girls in neighboring stalls talking. I couldn't help but laugh when the one said to her friend, "You know that girl who hates you? I'm not going to say her name, but you know that girl that hates you?" It was funny but I also felt sad for these two girls, who were trapped in that high school gossip circle I am so grateful I have escaped.

Returning to the bleachers, I got back into the action on the field as the Yellowjackets scored their second touchdown of the night. My roommate and I were surprised we were having so much fun and wished we had known about these games when we had first come to UMW

two years ago. James Monroe was on point Friday and I really became absorbed in the game.

The game itself aside, there is also something very special about Maury Stadium. Unlike most football fields located right behind the high school, James Monroe is in the middle of Fredericksburg. It

was really nice seeing such a mix of high school students and nearby residents together to support their local team. I felt like I was in the middle of an old Southern town where football is a religion and your QB is a God.

In the end, James Monroe shut out Washington & Lee High School, 28-0. But the

Yellowjackets gave me more than the thrill of a victory that night. They gave me temporary admission back into the world of high school football that I really do miss. There are plenty of other teams at UMW, but there's nothing quite like an autumn night at the football game.

So when you find yourself without anything to do on a Friday night next fall, consider driving downtown to Maury Stadium. Heading to the

bleachers with a hot dog and foam finger, you may remember just how much you've missed those lights.



Lauren Boston/Bullet

Pulling the old Heisman during a trip to Maury Stadium. I now realize football, not journalism, is my calling.



Courtesy UMW Terrapins

Members from one of the first synchronized swimming teams at the University of Mary Washington show off their costumes. The Terrapins are the oldest club at UMW.

Oldest UMW Club Keeps Tradition Alive

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combines this with other elements."

Although synchronized swimming has many similarities to dancing and other sports, it is a combination of not only flexibility and strength but the ability to hold one's breath for an extended amount of time.

According to O'Connor, each routine is set to music, adding another level of complexity.

"Not only do you have to put this stuff in the water, but you also have to remember what count is with the music," she said.

The Terrapins have to pick music with a definite beat that is conducive to a routine. Jensen said the girls choreograph

their their own solo routines, while she and head coach Krissy Daniels do the teamwork choreography.

O'Connor and her partner are currently working on a duet set to Irish music from "The Boondock Saints."

In addition to duets, synchronized swimming competitions also include solo and teamwork routines, which require at least four swimmers.

Performances aside, the Terrapins also concentrate of fundraising in order to keep the club afloat.

According to O'Connor, the Terrapins are allotted \$1,500 each year, but this falls far short of the \$5,000 required this year to cover transportation, hotels, swim suits and warm-ups for the first-year swimmers.

Write for the sports section.
All the cool kids do it.
Contact Lauren Boston
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Wait, do you hear that?
It's your calling...to be the next
Assistant Sports Editor.
Pick up.

Sports

Synchro Swimmers Hit Water



Courtesy UMW Terrapins

The synchronized swimming team competes in the 2006 Nationals at Stanford, where they placed 16th. The Terrapins compete both locally and nationally.

By LAUREN BOSTON
Sports Editor

Picture a combination of figure skating, dance, marching band and swimming, and then add goggles and a nose plug. Put it in the water and you have synchronized swimming.

The University of Mary Washington synchronized swimming team is the oldest club at UMW, yet few know anything about a sport that attracts athletes from various backgrounds.

According to assistant coach Jill Jensen, a UMW graduate and ex-Terrapin, most girls on the current roster of 10 have no prior experience with synchronized swimming.

"We have one girl on the team right now that has prior experience, but everyone else is new to this," she said. "I was a competitive swimmer in high school, as were most of the girls on the team.

We were just looking for something that's not a varsity sport but that keeps us involved with a team."

Synchronized swimming may not be a varsity sport, but their season is just as strenuous. The Terrapins begin practicing in September and do not head into the off season until the first weekend in April.

According to Jensen, the first half hour of every practice is devoted to stretching and callisthetics, and the second half hour is for swimming laps and drills. The team spends the final portion of practice doing choreography.

Their practice is put to the test once in the fall during a figure meet, where team members are judged on an individual basis. Spring competitions combine both team and individual scores.

Jensen compared the competitions to figure skating.

"We're judged on artistic merit and technical teamwork," she said.

The Terrapins, who once practiced in a pool where The Underground now stands, regularly compete against the University of Richmond, the College of William & Mary and George Mason University, in addition to teams on the west coast.

According to junior co-captain Colleen O'Connor, competing outside of Virginia can often be very intimidating for newcomers.

"You have to start from scratch with a whole new sport and then you have to compete against some girls who have been doing this since they were 8 or 10 years old," O'Connor said. "Some of them are Olympians. They walk around with their parkas that say U.S.A. on the back."

Despite going up against the cream of the crop, UMW has managed to place in the top 20 almost every year, and has also had several individuals

place based on solo performances.

Although synchronized swimming is big in many west coast states like California, the sport is fairly unknown in the rest of the country.

According to Jensen, the only recreation teams tend to be near colleges that have a synchronized swimming program.

In Virginia most programs are in either the northern part of the state or Williamsburg, but there are currently only 25 collegiate teams total in the nation.

O'Connor said she had never seen synchronized swimming until coming to UMW.

"I wish I could have been exposed to it earlier in life," she said. "I really want to improve. I'm from Cape Cod and we didn't have anything like this. I like it because I danced for like five years and it

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Remembering Those Friday Night Lights

By LAUREN BOSTON
Sports Editor

Driving downtown Friday to check out the Christmas lights with our Hanson Christmas CD on full blast, my roommate and I were riding high on early holiday cheer and those sultry Mmmmbop voices when I saw the lights of Maury Stadium.

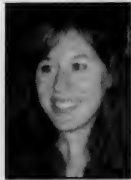
For those unfamiliar with Maury Stadium, it sits behind an abandoned building that was once James Monroe High School but remains the school's home football field.

Pulling up to the stadium, we saw several James Monroe High School banners and decided to skip the goodbye concert in Lee Hall Ballroom in favor of checking out the action right in front of us.

As we walked to the entrance, our excitement grew with the volume of the marching band. In the absence of a college football team, I had forgotten the thrill of those 'Friday night lights' and all that happens under them.

Stepping through the gate, I felt like I was back in high school. The cool kids still mingled in a designated area, more concerned with social networking than the actual game.

The cheerleaders were also just as I had remembered, a permanent smile on their faces and a high kick that made me ashamed



to be out of breath after ascending the bleachers.

Mary Washington students may have a small geographical connection to James Monroe High School, but we certainly don't live in the same social world. Yet, as my roommate and I sat on the bleachers, surrounded by a sea of proud orange and black yellow jacket fans, I couldn't help but root for my new team.

We happened to come to James Monroe's final home game and senior night, which only made the atmosphere that much more electrifying. It was also a testament to the magic of high school football games.

Looking around, I remembered how it felt to be a senior at a football game, still on top of the world and unaware of all the trials I would soon face at college.

I also recalled all the things I hated about high

school, which seem to be magnified at a football game. In high school I was one of the few that actually came each week to watch the game, but I was also envious of all the girls who seemed to move from popular guy to popular guy with ease. The scene at Maury Stadium was no different and it was both comforting and disappointing to see that some things never change.

Right before halftime I ran to the bathroom while my roommate waited on the bleachers, once again transported to my pre-college days. As I walked in, I heard two

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Lauren Boston/Bulletin

The James Monroe High School football team dominated Friday when I went to the game, crushing Washington & Lee, 28-0. The Maury Stadium scoreboard said it all.

Athletes of the Week

- * Freshman Jaci Marshall and senior Lauren Allen were named to the field hockey All-South Region Team.
- * Junior Liz Hickey was named a preseason third team All-American for basketball.
- * Junior Margaret Vaccaro was named to the soccer CAC first team.